

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for indicating objects in a view of data having corresponding annotations, comprising:
 - querying an annotation store to identify annotations corresponding to objects in the view;
 - generating one or more indicia maps indicating which, if any, objects in the view have corresponding annotations; and
 - providing an indication of which, if any, objects in the view have corresponding annotations, based on the one or more indicia maps.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein generating one or more indicia maps indicating which, if any, objects in the view have corresponding annotations comprises generating at least one indicia map indicating the existence of annotations for a specified group of data objects.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the view of data comprises a portion of a text document.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein providing an indication of which objects in the view have corresponding annotations comprises displaying one or more annotation icons proximate one or more objects having corresponding annotations.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein generating one or more indicia maps indicating which, if any, objects in the view have corresponding annotations comprises:
 - setting a first bit in an indicia map to indicate a first data object has a corresponding annotation; and
 - setting a second one or more bits in the indicia map to indicate one or more subobjects related to first data object have corresponding annotations.

6. A method for indicating annotated objects in a relational view of data having rows of individual cells, comprising:

querying an annotation store to identify annotations corresponding to objects in the view;

generating one or more indicia maps indicating which, if any, objects in the view have corresponding annotations, wherein the one or more indicia maps each comprise a single bit corresponding to a row and one or more bits corresponding to individual cells in the row; and

providing an indication of which, if any, objects in the view have corresponding annotations, based on the one or more indicia maps.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein querying the annotation store to identify annotations corresponding to objects in the view comprises generating and executing a query specifying a data source and one or more primary keys identifying objects in the view.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein retrieving the primary keys comprises:
receiving a query for generating the view; and
if a specified result set of the query does not include primary key data, modifying the query to include primary key data in the result set.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of the indicia maps comprises one or more bits indicating the existence of annotations corresponding to a specified group of cells.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein providing an indication of which objects in the view have corresponding annotations comprises:

displaying an annotation icon proximate a row if the bit corresponding to the row is set; and

displaying one or more annotation icons proximate one or more cells if their corresponding bits are set.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
 - retrieving partial annotation information related to annotated objects; and
 - displaying partial annotation information in response to a user placing a mouse cursor over an annotation icon.
12. The method of claim 10, further comprising, in response to a user selecting an annotation icon, displaying a corresponding annotation.
13. The method of claim 12, further comprising retrieving the corresponding annotation, in response to the user selecting the annotation icon.
14. The method of claim 6, wherein generating one or more indicia maps indicating which, if any, objects in the view have corresponding annotations comprises:
 - generating a temporary table having entries with a single bit set to indicate an annotated row or annotated individual cells; and
 - combining individual entries corresponding to a common row to generate an indicia map for the common row.
15. A computer-readable medium containing a program for indicating objects in a view of data that have annotations which, when executed by a processor, performs operations comprising:
 - querying an annotation store to identify annotations corresponding to objects in the view;
 - generating one or more indicia maps indicating which, if any, objects in the view have corresponding annotations; and
 - providing an indication of which, if any, objects in the view have corresponding annotations, based on the one or more indicia maps.
16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein querying the annotation store comprises querying a data source separate from a data source containing the corresponding objects in the view.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the view of data comprises a portion of a text document.
18. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein:
 - the view of data comprises a relational view of data having rows of individual cells; and
 - each indicia map comprises a single bit corresponding to a row and one or more bits corresponding to individual cells in the row.
19. The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein querying the annotation store to identify annotations corresponding to objects in the view comprises generating and executing a query specifying a data source and one or more primary keys identifying rows in the view.
20. A system for indicating objects in a view of data having corresponding annotations, comprising:
 - an annotation database for storing annotation records containing annotations; and
 - an executable component configured to query the annotation database to identify annotations corresponding to objects in the view, generate one or more indicia maps indicating which, if any, objects in the view have corresponding annotations, and provide an indication of which, if any, objects in the view have corresponding annotations, based on the one or more indicia maps.
21. The system of claim 20, wherein:
 - the view of data comprises a relational view of data having rows of individual cells; and
 - each indicia map comprises a single bit corresponding to a row and one or more bits corresponding to individual cells in the row.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the executable component is configured to query the annotation database to identify annotations corresponding to objects in the view by generating and executing a query specifying a data source and one or more primary keys identifying objects in the view.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the executable component is further configured to obtain the one or more primary keys by modifying a query designed to generate the view of data.